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vent war in the land, for Daniel threatens to raise a commando of the people of Amral and the Africaners, and to go against Henrick.

"After travelling a degree farther north, I arrived at the Kaap River, a branch of the Great Fish: there we saw a good deal of honey-beer drinking and dancing. We stayed for some days at Daniel's kraal; and, having been assisted with eight pair of oxen, came on here, to a kraal of the Great Captain's, William Zwaartboy (the Namaquas adopt Dutch names—*i. e.*, those of any note). Here we have been staying to fortify ourselves with an *abattis* of bushes round the tent and waggon, for we hear that Henrick has come with a commando against Daniel's kraal again, fifty miles south of us, and that he is likely to attack us too; but we are quite ready for him: however, if Zwaartboy comes first from the Fish River to see us, there will probably be no fight.

"Before the rain, on the 16th, the heat was 110°, now it is 80°, and the river is running briskly. I have fallen in with a man here, who was at Walwich Bay three years ago, and he says that our route will probaby be to Zwaartmorass, one day and a half; to the Fish River, one day and a half; up it, six days; to Buffels Poort (through a field abounding with lions, cameleopards, rhinoceroses, bucks, &c.), ten days; to the Kooisip, three days; to the Bay, eight days—beyond that on the Squakop (Somerset?), the Damaras abound.

"The other day I bought a young Damara negro (a boy), ten years old, for about 4*s.*—that is, for two cotton handkerchiefs and two strings of glass beads. His mistress was a Namaqua woman. The boy was half starved, and he is now well fed and clothed, and is my shepherd.

"We see many Damara slaves among the Namaquas. My medicine chest is in great request;—we have the usual annoyances of heat, dust—and very stony roads, if roads they may be called, where no waggon ever passed before—disputes to settle, bargaining for horses, sheep and cattle, &c.; but we manage to keep a good heart, and though they sometimes try to frighten us, we will go as far as we possibly can —human nature can do no more."

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## III.—*Journal of an Expedition up the River Cuyuny, in British Guayana, in March,* 1837. By William Hilhouse, Esq., Corr. Mem. R. G. S.

HAVING long laboured under the most distressing biliary symptoms, which had reduced me to a state of great debility, I resolved this month to try what the air of the mountains would do towards the restoration of my health. This Journal may, therefore, be termed the Diary of an Invalid, as I made no observations, took no instruments but a watch and Schmalcalder's compass, and divested myself of every scientific pretension but the collection of such granitic orchideæ as might fall in my way. I reached the Calicoon Creek in Massaroony River on the 1st March, and had to return to George Town for craft and supplies, as

I found, notwithstanding the establishment of a Protestant Mission at Bartika—the whole of the population literally without bread, and it was necessary to proceed loaded with rice—a dilemma to which I had never been before reduced. My illness had now assumed the decided character of dysentery, with which, however, I started on Tuesday, having only two hands and a woman, and, at Timmerman's, about two hours up the Cuyuny, engaged five others. On starting next day, I found that Timmerman had stowed away two women and two children, in addition to my already overloaded craft, and I must either take them or stay. I had no resource, so submitted. My crew now consisted of seven men, three women, two children, myself, and boy—the former all Caribisce, and I caution all future travellers against such a similar one. The Caribisce are, at the best, proud, sulky, and unsteady workmen, but these were half-starved and weakly.

"*March 16th*, 1837.—Started at nine; course W. by N. At ten, the first *Acäyu* Rapid or Fall. At eleven, at *Saregataava*, the second Fall, and a Portage. At twelve, *Twarúng*. At one, *Ematúbbah*, called below the Great Fall. At three, *Arcaboosa*. At six, *Camareea*, and slept. The dryness of this detail must be very uninteresting; but it is absolutely necessary to give some idea of the course of the river. The epithet Ematúbbah signifies a Portage, or Fall, that cannot be passed without unloading and hauling up the craft over the rocks. There are two in this river, one in Corentyn, and one in Barema. I had this day the assistance of a free man and a labourer, to my great relief, as the Caribisce were weak from hunger, and had little idea of facing a fall in so large a craft as mine. We ascended this day fully seventy-seven feet—a day's work which, I conceive, at the outset to have deterred former explorers, for I find, to my great surprise, that from this to the eighteenth day's journey, is a virgin river, as to its ascent, though I am aware that refugees from the Spanish missions have descended it—a Mr. or Dr. Bruton I recollect as one.

"At Camareea I found four or five of the Orchideæ, common in Hobabba Creek, twelve miles from Georgetown.

"*17th.*—Dried the cargo wetted in the fall, and started at 11. Course W. by N. *Wókah* or the Powis Mountain right a-head. At 1¼—Wókah Creek on the south shore—*Oerabisce* Creek on the north shore at 4½; having crossed to the north bank, slept at the foot of the *Suwaraima* Fall. We made this détour to the right to avoid the *second* Ematúbbah, by a string of rapids in another channel—one hour's course, N. by W. from this. At the foot of Suwaraima I formed some conception of the rapidity with which a Pacou swims. One was in a basin with two apertures—the lower one too small for it to escape by; the upper, a stream rushing down nearly three feet perpendicular, barely broader than the fish. I bestrode this, and whilst calling for an arrow, the fish sprung up the opening, and was 50 feet up the stream in less than half a second. Its flight was barely visible.

"*18th.*—Started at 8; Falls very difficult, about 30 feet, but in ledges; veered again southward, and slept at 4 at the *Acareewa* Fall—fine Pacou shooting at this Fall.

"*19th.*—Started at 7½; at ½2 reached the *Tonomah;* and at ¼

before 5 the *Payuca*, and slept there: passed numerous small rapids this day, and had much sport with the fish.

" 5*th Day*.—Left Payuca at 8. Heavy rain in the night—Scotch mist in the morning—a few rapids above, after which a large opening. Oars and sails—course W. by N. From Camareea to Payonea is a semicircle, by which two large falls, in the direct course, are avoided, and one large, and several small falls and rapids are substituted for them. I assumed the direction of all the ascents, as I found the Indians little acquainted with the power of purchases, and experience had taught me how little they were to be depended on with anything but one of their own bark canoes, or wood-skins, which two men can carry on their heads with great ease. Former excursions had made me at home in the falls, and the Indians, after seeing the ease with which they surmounted difficulties that appeared impracticable, under my direction, assumed courage, and faced the falls nobly, whilst I was at the bow of the craft. If I left it, everything stood still; and if I took a ramble on the rocks in search of plants, I was sure, on my return, to find the corial *in statu quo*, and the crew gorging themselves with anything at hand in the eating way. All Indians are gluttons; but the Caribisce will outeat all the tribes. I must observe that though mechanical knowledge is of great assistance in *ascending*, it is quite useless in *descending* the falls. Then the quick eye, dexterous hand, and unshaken nerve of the Indian are inimitable by any exertion of European science—he who interferes with them in *shooting* a fall does it to his own destruction.—*Payuca* is 200 feet above the level, and 47 miles *west* from our departure. Several blocks of stone were found here of a bluish tinge, and so fine a grain, that we sharpened our cutlasses, axes, knives, &c. upon it; but so excessively hard, that it gave out sparks on the slightest blow with iron. Halted and slept on an island opposite the *Saramu* Creek on the north shore. Here the path sets off to Pomeroon and Wayeena rivers, and is the same that was traversed by Gullifer and Smith in 1820. It is computed at five days' journey to the Wayeena by the Indians, equal to seven or eight of an European.

" 6*th*.—Started at 8, with a Lowlow of 50lbs.; course W. by N.; still water. At 9, *Warara* rapid; at 2, *Watoopegay* rapid; small, but very long; *Totowou* Creek, N. bank, at 9½. We spoke this day two woodskins loaded with turtle for the coast, and bought three days' cassada. Oars half the day; slept at *Watoopegay* at 3.

" 7*th*.—Started at ¼7. Course S. by W.; dense fog. At 9, Copang Creek, N. bank. At ½10, Bayuma Creek, S. bank. Here the river clear of islands, and 150 yards across. At 2½, *Waycourny* Fall; long and difficult; rocks like the slag of a glass house. Half this day course W., oars and sails, and a good breeze aft.

" 8th.—Started at 7; course W. by S.; clear of islands; halted at half-past 9 at the foot of the Fall *Acueywaugh*, where we unloaded for the sixth time, and halted for the day and night to fish, hunt, and dry cargo. The water is here quite black and transparent—hitherto it has been alternately dark and clear—and white and muddy—as it passed through rocky or clayey banks; so that the epithet of a *white* river to the Cuyuny is inapplicable—from this point upwards all being a dark

water. I reckon this fall 124 miles W. of our departure, and 220 feet above the level of the sea.

" 9*th.*—Started at 7h. 45m.; course W. by N. At 9h. 10 m. *Toropaaru* Creek, from which is the communication with the Punoony Creek in the Massaroony—Smith and Gullifer's route in 1820. At 10, N. by W.; at 11, N. by E.; at 12, Acha rapid. At 1, course N. by W.; at 3h. 20m. W. by N.; at 3½, Maya Creek, N. shore; 3h. 45m. course N.; 4¼, course W. by N. 5 o'clock, halted for the night at lower *Arapeera.*

" 10*th.*—Started at 8½; course W. River spotted with rocks; 250 yards broad; very shallow; here and there islands, and full of small rapids. At 11h. 10m. *Tocro* Island, where a white man, most likely a smuggler, is reported to have resided some years here. Halted at *Waseema* Island at 4.

" 11*th.*—Started from Waseema at 7½; course W. by N.; caught in the night two large Parwareema and a very large Pyara. At 10, *Goomeyrey* Fall rapids—again unloaded—heavy rapids from hence to WOHMUYPONGH—or, the " Canoe Wrecker," which is the highest fall in the river, 30 feet, where we unloaded and transported the corial with great difficulty over a portage 300 yards across. I reckon the head of this fall 300 feet above the level, and 176 miles W. distant from our departure. I must here premise, that most of the large falls in this river are preceded and followed by a string of rapids, which are all included by the Indians in the appellation of the Great Fall to which they are attached—they jointly are of greater altitude often than the fall itself, as in the present instance, where, though I allow only 30 feet for the Great Fall, its rapids make at least 50 feet more—in all 80 feet. The channel of the river from Goomeyrey lies through black granite with detached upright masses with round tops, on which grow stunted bushes, and in many instances an Oncidium, which is the only orchideous plant that I have found exclusively attached to the granitic region. Our stages from this point present little variety, being for the most part through still water.

" 13*th.*—Started at 6; course W.; at 8, N.W.; at 11, *Otomungh* Fall; at 4, *Wataweiyka*—sails and oars.

" 14*th.*—Started at 6, course W.; 6½, course N. W., *Kanaima* hills a-head—8h. 10m. S. W.—8h. 20m. S. by W. At 9, the Accaway settlement of *Lorenzo*, being the first habitation we have seen since starting at the foot of the Kanaima Fall. Finding here no bread, we left at 12; at 2½ had passed the island of Upper *Arapeera*, which, with the neighbouring islands, was full of Quassia Amara, being almost the only underwood: caught three very fine Silures this night, viz., a lowlow and two marepaghas.

" 15*th.*—Started at 6; course W. at 6h. 45m.; open river, quarter of a mile broad—at 9, *Comang* Creek, south bank, course N. W.; at ¼10, *Carapeesy* Creek, N. shore, where we halted till 3, being the first Caribisce settlement, which is five miles inland, and procured our first supply of food, viz., cassada, yams, and plantains, of the finest description; started at 3h. 10m., course W.; and 5, slept at the foot of the Macabbah rapids.

"16*th*.—Started at 6; at 7½ passed the rapids, and hoisted sail, course W.; at 9h. 10m. course S. W.; at 9½, *Eyreycooney* Creek, S. bank, where the Spaniards penetrated in the Patriot War; course W. by S.; open river, 150 yards across; at 10h. 11m. course S. by W.: at 11¼ course W.; at 1¼ course S. W.; at 4 reached *Mauricios*, the second Caribisce settlement, on the south shore, where we slept. It is called *Unawarooa*, from a small creek just above. In this day's progress we had two views of the mountains of *Tippoorah* and *Mowrocara*: the ridges appear to run S. E. and N. W., and their northern faces seem about 2000 feet high, the upper half of which is an angle of 75°, and the lower, or debris, 45°. They differ in this from the mountains of the Massaroony, which are perfectly precipitous on their N. faces, though the rock appears similar, and they are covered with stunted trees to their summit; they terminate at the south bank of the river, nor have I seen any indication of hills worthy the name of mountains on the north side. At this place I found a prismatic cactus, parasitical, with long flower stalks shooting from the base of the new joints. I looked in vain for a duplicate.

"17*th*.—Started at 6h. 15m., course S. W.; at 7h. 15m. course S. by W.; at 8h. 35m. *Coopeyrey* Creek, north shore; at 10, the great Sand of *Maypouriband*, course S. W.; at 11h. 40m. course W. by N.; at 1 reached the Accaway settlement of *Awara-Paaty*, and slept there. River black; sailed all day; level 400 feet; distance 268 miles. We found here a bell from one of the deserted missions, a cooloo, and a red rumped powis, both common in the Wayiena and Barema rivers. The people of this settlement, except two or three women, were all up the river at a piworry feast; we procured, however, fresh bread and a few yams.

"18th.—Started at 6h. 20m., course W. by N.; at 7h. 50m. course S. W.; at 8½ N. W.; at 9 *Cateeya*, Spanish Military Post in the royalist time; at 9½ *Coroowa* Creek, north shore. The water of this creek is as muddy as that of the Demarara at Georgetown; being the lowest direct communication with the Spanish provinces, it was the old route of smugglers, and the company of soldiers at Cateeya were as much for the prevention of smuggling as for the protection of the missions, as it cut off all communication with the lower river, which I find, from the old Indians, was prohibited. I have no doubt that from this point upwards the Spanish have good authorities. But there is every reason to believe that the lower part is yet undelineated, and as I took no observations, must remain so for the present. The course is however undoubtedly W. by N. on the average, and my distances are far from overrated, oars and sails being frequently used, and the descent occupying nearly as much time as the ascent. The Coroowa Creek is also famous, or rather infamous, as being the scene of the cool-blooded murder of the Missionaries of the Caroony, who were hunted down and shot by the ruffians employed on the service with relentless cruelty. All the old inhabitants, both Accaway and Caribisce above this, were converts of these Missions, and they all agree as to the fact of ten Missionaries being shot in their attempt to escape through the Coroowa to Demarara: such is civil war. The creek was dry and stagnant, the communication being only open

during the rains. At 10½ *Amacaynia*, where was a great Accaway dance of about 300 people, this being the second day the piworry was beginning to operate: and when our large square sail, the first seen on these waters, rode right up to the landing, they gave a yell of astonishment, and rushed in a body to the water side to see what it meant. As soon as they found, however, that we were not *Spaniards*, everything in the house was lavished on us, and it was not till my whole crew had imbibed at least a gallon a-head, that I could get them away, scarcely able to breathe from repletion. These dances are the undoubted symptom of reversion to barbarity. But it is a substantial proof, even at this date, of the merits of the Missionaries, that they are spoken of universally with feelings of the most affectionate respect and regret, whilst their persecutors are held in the utmost abhorrence, and every possible epithet of detestation is coupled with the name of *Spaniard;* as an Indian very gravely told me, "We never knew hunger under the Padres, for though we worked for them, our children's mouths were filled with bread and *beef*." Indeed, though I found this country comparatively a Land of Plenty, there is no doubt that animal food is of very precarious supply; and the flocks of cattle in the savannahs, which were regularly killed and served out as rations, made the life of an Indian of the Missions one without care or privation. They endeavour in some measure to supply the loss of beef by raising common fowls, which were plentiful in every settlement, at almost eighteen-pence a couple. From 10½ to 1 our course was S. W., when we halted on the N. shore to fish and hunt, being out of meat, but without success, the dancers having swept the bush of game for miles round for their feast.

"19*th*.—Started at 6½, course S. by W.; at 7½ S. by E.; at 8h. 55m. W. by S.; at 9h. 50m., after half an hour's halt, W., ½ S.; 5m. to 11 W. by S.; 11 S. W.; 11½ W. by S.; at 12 reached the mouth of the *Coora Coora* Creek, the settlement of the Accaway *Provincio*, and pitched the tent on a large sand at the base of the hill, on which his house stands.

"When I found in the course of my progress that health and means were sufficient for a more prolonged excursion than I originally projected, I fixed on this creek as the limit—having heard of the high savannahs at the head, where I expected to botanize advantageously. Though I went a day further up the river, still this creek may be deemed the limit of my excursion, and I made two trips up the creek, and over the falls to the savannah in question. It is situated in the range of two branches of the Ekruyekuh Mountains, between which the Coora Coora Creek runs in a succession of unnavigable rapids for at least 20 miles. I consider the savannah 1500, and the mountains on each side 2500 feet above the sea—and I was beyond measure astonished to find at this elevation the plants, with two or three exceptions, exactly the same as those common to the Demarara sand hills, and the alluvial creeks within the influence of the tides, and a few miles from the sea. The only peculiarity worthy of remark was, that plants below, purely parasitical, were here growing in whole acres on the bare sands, and covering boulders and cliffs of granite, without a particle of soil attached. Brassias, Oncidiums, and the commonest Orchideæ of the creeks below,

were thus situated; but the more choice specimens were either very scarce or wanting. One Oncidium alone I characterise as exclusively granitic, with a long pear-shaped bulb, and a very elegant flower-stem six feet high—much resembling the *Oncidium Altissimum*, with which it is intermingled in large clumps. This, and the Cactus I have before described, are the only botanical novelties I have seen in the granitic region. Greatly to my disappointment, even the forest trees were similar—only that about here, a tree unknown below, with a black heart, called the *Tāow*, superseded the *Mora*—which was till now the undisputed Lord of the Forest.

"After five days' halt, and exploring the creek, and the upper settlements, I therefore returned. The river had fallen fully four feet, and the falls were becoming more and more dangerous—the rains were evidently setting in—and I determined on returning. Little interest can be excited by a description of the difficulties attending my return with a crew reduced by desertion to only four hands. It was infinitely more hazardous than the progress up—but I was prepared for it, and after a descent of fifteen days, I arrived safe at Calicoon, without any material accident.

"The Cuyuny River is by no means so picturesque as the Massaroony. The land is nevertheless superior in quality to that of any other river I have yet explored. Hills of a very fertile red sandy clay, here and there occur—and the Indians cultivate to great advantage. None, however, can compete with the alluvium of the coast. Two crops of ground provisions, and three or four of plantains are the extent of the production—but the crops for these two years are enormous, and they are soon restored. Native cottons I found of the finest quality. The race of Indians are in stature, appearance, and conduct far superior to any I have seen on the coast. This is solely attributable to the labours of the Missionaries, under whom polygamy was forbidden—and those premature sexual connexions common on the coast being also prohibited. The effect is evident in an *improved race*, both morally and physically. Humanity must mourn the extinction of that system of instruction which had gone so far in rescuing these children of the forest from natural vice and its consequences. It must indeed have been a noble system, when its effects, after twenty years of abandonment, are still enduring; for I make no scruple in repeating that the refugee Indians of the Upper Cuyuny *are*, or *were*, the same class as in the Morocco Creek, the most moral, industrious, good-mannered, and trustworthy of any free labourers in the Colony, without respect of country or colour.

"Of a far different description are those who, preferring the rum of the plantations to the fruits of honest industry, have come down the falls and settled in the vicinity of civilization; a total disregard to honour in their dealings, unconquerable indolence, and beastly intemperance. This is the class of people that the Protestant Mission has to convert—and I need not say that the attempt is a hopeless one. I have every wish to see the work of conversion carried on to the utmost; I care not by what sect of Christians, so that they be such. But as an *Indian* Mission, the Bartika one is a total failure. The Indians of the vicinity are much more depraved than they were before the Mission was established.

On my arrival in March, in Massaroony, I saw no fields burning, and what cultivation I saw or heard of was far below the adequate scale. This was not so of old. In February the Indian cut down the bush for his field—in March he burnt the wood on the ground—in April he planted the cassada for the next year's supply. Not merely the Indians but the free people of colour were in the same predicament. Not a cake of cassada bread could be bought for any money on either of the rivers. The Indians and free people in the vicinity of the Protestant Mission were starving—the Indians beyond its reach were revelling in plenty. The fact speaks volumes. I bought in Coora Coora fifty pounds of hard dried cassada bread for a three-bit knife. It cost me six shillings a day to feed my crew with rice from Georgetown to the Carapeesy Creek, and fourpence-halfpenny per diem afterwards with cassada. It would be unfair to infer, that because the beginning has been unfortunate, the end must necessarily be so also. And common report gives the clergyman now in charge of the Mission, a character of great zeal and worthiness. But it is a melancholy prospect for the colony, to see such a result as the present—from freedom, civilization, and religious instruction, after so many years of experimental progress.

" I have added little in this excursion to geographical or botanical science. The Yuruary River and its savannahs were still five days' journey off, when I turned back, just in time to encounter incessant rains in the Massaroony. But I think the point is determined, that the *granitic* region is not the region of Orchideous, or indeed any other plants, which only grow there in much less vigour, variety, and plenty, than in the immediate vicinity of the coast.

" It is evident that colonization can never be attempted on this river. The first day's journal determines that. The only outlet for produce is the Yuruary, Corony, and Oronoque. But the cottons are of a fine staple and quality, though not unknown to me. They would be a most valuable article of commerce—but, alas! Dr. Hancock himself could never get them down those tremendous falls. The Cuyuny River is therefore a treasure that never can be opened; its resources are closed for ever.

" My expedition, it will be seen, occupied 20 days in ascending, and 14 in descending. In the Massaroony one day of descent equalled three of ascent. But I had the breeze right aft in the still waters, and with a very large sail, made as much way for several days against the current as I did in returning with it. My longitude of 300 miles west will therefore be found rather under than over the mark*—and my computed elevation, corrected by observations in the more direct course of the descent, will be found not excessive. The altitude of the mountains is a matter of pure conjecture, but it is founded on their character and appearance, which in all these rivers is so similar, that the debris, the sloping, and the perpendicular formation seem to embrace one general law of altitude, and are the same in all places, after passing the ridges of secondary hills.

* According to our maps, this distance would place the traveller to the westward of the River Carony, an affluent of the Orinoco, and in longitude 63° west of Greenwich, which would seem improbable.—Ed.

"The wind was always either E. or S.E., though the upper current of clouds were N. E., like the sea breeze. I found no peculiarities in the zoological department. The channel up is circuitous, in order to substitute numerous small rapids for single great falls. There are three portages for the corial itself, and six more for the baggage alone, whereas in Massaroony to a similar elevation there is only one portage, viz., at the mouth of the Caboory Creek.

"I should suppose a line drawn W. by N. would intersect the average course of the river to the Yuruary, beyond which the Spanish authorities give it a semicircular détour to the south.

"I can find no traces of any one having preceded me in the survey of the lower part of the river. The truth is, that few corials are equal to it—and the woodskins, or bark canoes of the Indians, are so inconvenient to sit in, and carry so small a cargo, that few would attempt the ascent in them. The coloured people below are ignorant of the passages after the first day—and the Indians themselves do not know how to manage a large craft up. My former habits gave me an advantage that succeeding adventurers will hardly possess, to whom I would state that beyond all other rivers the Cuyuny is the most difficult and dangerous of ascent, and should only be attempted with craft like mine, of the very finest description, and with a crew of the native Accaway Indians of the river itself, from the *upper* part, for I would not wish my greatest enemy such a crew as I was obliged to put off with, viz., the Caribisce below the falls."

## IV.—*New Group of Islands in the Pacific.*

THE following extract from the remark book of H.M.S. Actæon, Captain Lord Edward Russell, while on the passage from Tahiti to Pitcairn's Island, notices the discovery of a group of islands in the Dangerous Archipelago, which does not appear in any of our charts:—

"*January* 3, 1837. While standing to the N.E. we discovered land, and at 3 P.M., being within three miles of the western island, bearing N.N.W., we made out three very low wooded islands with a heavy surf on the beach and no appearance of any anchorage: the northwesternmost island appeared to be a lagoon island with a reef extending about three-quarters of a mile from its N.W. and S.E. extremes. The names we affixed to them and their positions are respectively as follow:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| "Bedford Island, N.W. point, | 21° 18′ 30″ S. | 136° 38′ W. of Gh. |
| Minto Island, centre . . | 21 23 0 | 136 32 — |
| Melbourne Island, centre | 21 28 30 | 136 27 — " |

From the accompanying chart, made by Mr. Biddlecombe, master of H.M.S. Actæon, it appears that the islands extend